AMERICAN OPINION
An Informal Review

Belmont 78, Massachusetts

May 18, 1959

A.R.
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Mr. Wm. J. Grede
Grede Foundries, Inc.
1320 South First Street
Milwaukee 1, Wisconsin

Dear Bill:

The check from Jim Meigs, and your part in getting this contribution to the work of THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, are both greatly appreciated. And of course I am writing a letter of thanks directly to Jim Meigs himself.

Since you may be canvassing some of the others who were at the meeting at the Milwaukee Country Club, I hasten to let you know that Harold Falk has already come in some time ago, with a check for a thousand dollars. Carl Swenson sent a check for thirty-six dollars, for membership in the Home Chapter for both Mrs. Swenson and himself, almost immediately after the meeting. Ed Hamilton heard at Boca Raton that part of the presentation which he had missed at Milwaukee, and immediately contributed a thousand dollars, for which he was given life membership in the Home Chapter. And Fitzhugh Scott, Harry Bradley, and Fred Loock are all doing their full part in many ways. But to the best of my crowded recollection, we have not heard from any of the others who were there. How many of them could readily afford to make any sizable contribution, I don't know, and we certainly do not want to crowd or press anybody. But I would imagine that almost everybody there could afford the twenty-four dollars per year for annual membership in the Home Chapter, so that they would definitely be participating in the work of the SOCIETY. Which immediately brings to mind an oversight in my statement above. Both Bob Ewens and Chet Anderson did come in promptly with dues for such regular membership; and of course Bob Ewens has been extremely helpful in other ways, especially in connection with getting me the opportunity to speak at Northernaire. (Which certainly seems to be getting this paragraph all mixed up, but I trust you can untangle it!)

I really believe that, for the initial stages anyway, we are making quite good headway in THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. I have a two-day meeting coming up this very week-end in Chicago; on Friday and Saturday, May 22 and May 23, at the Union League Club, beginning at nine o'clock sharp Friday morning. I wish now that I had thought to invite your sons-in-law ~~through~~, on the chance that they could come down to Chicago for this session. And of course either or both would still be more than welcome, if this did not prove to be entirely too short notice. If, as I imagine, the invitation is too late to give either of them a chance to make the necessary arrangements to be gone for the two full days, I hope that they can both come to a later meeting and I shall try to let you know about one far enough in advance.

I am deeply grateful to you, Bill, for your willingness to start getting more into the work of THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, and as we move into the summer, when you expect to have more time, I shall begin looking for all of the advice and help you can give me. My biggest problem now is keeping up with the organizational needs of anything with such potential rapid growth as is already clearly visible. And it will be grand to count on your help in connection with many of the problems that will arise and activities we shall undertake.

You will be interested to know that Harry Bradley and Fred Loock and Harvey Peters -- with my good friend, Fitzhugh Scott, always diplomatically urging them along -- have already committed themselves to paying for putting the whole JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY presentation on film, at a cost of about thirty-five thousand dollars or perhaps a little more. We hope and expect to have the films ready, and Coordinators out actually using them, by Labor Day. So that, from early September on, the formation of chapters and our whole growth should be very rapid indeed. And goodness knows, it needs to be, because the evidence everywhere around us is overwhelming as to how fast the Communists are moving today, and how brazen they are becoming in simply taking over power and control right under our eyes.

There are a lot of things I should like to write you about, Bill.

But I am just back from New York; have been trying to put the next issue of the magazine to bed, in between trips and speeches; have had the additional work of getting the COMMITTEE AGAINST SUMMIT ENTANGLEMENTS organized and started, on top of everything else; and the unanswered mail on top of my desk is a nightmare. So I'll not go into one or two general matters, in connection with the SOCIETY, which I should like to duscuss with you. But there is one specific thing -- besides chasing any money which you can find lying around loose -- which I wish you could do for me if you can spare the time. And that is, to have a talk with Mark Sageser before he leaves for Europe for the summer. Chet Anderson can give you his address, if you don't have it. I'd like very much to get Mark Sageser sold completely enough on the idea of becoming our Coordinator for the state of Wisconsin for us to be able to count on him starting right to work on that job the minute he gets back from Europe, around September 1. For he certainly has most of the qualifications we are looking for, for that particular job, and at a salary expectation which I do not think would be prohibitive. Mark has been so sold on the "Christopher idea" of each individual simply doing everything he can, to be a moral, Christian, patriotic, humane citizen, and on thus changing the trend in the world by the total effect of these individual actions, that he shied away somewhat from becoming a part of so tightly knit an organizational effort as THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. But I do believe, from my last telephone conversation with him, at the time I was in Milwaukee on my way back from Northernaire, that he has come aorund in his thinking about THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY to the point that it would take very little now to push him into becoming a very enthusiastic and hardworking part of our staff organization. If so, and with him starting to work with the films we shall be able to supply him, and with the groundwork which has already been laid with some sixty to seventy-five influential citizens in Wisconsin, I think he could build a large number of very strong chapters for us in that state very rapidly in the early fall. So anything you might be able to do to make him reach a decision, with a commitment we could count on -- or to find out positively if we cannot count on him -- would be helpful and appreciated.

Since I have not heard from you yet about putting your name on the

COMMITTEE AGAINST SUMMIT ENTANGLEMENTS -- which probably means that you have been out of town, as the reaction to my request has been extremely favorable -- I may be trying to reach you by telephone Wednesday night. For I definitely have to put this letterhead together before leaving for Chicago Thursday. But I decided to write this letter covering all of the other points above, anyway, and thus save the cost of a telephone call if I do hear from you in the next day or two.

Good luck, Bill, and my kindest regards.

Sincerely,

Bob

RW:mlp Robert Welch

P.S. We are enclosing a couple of membership application blanks, and mailing you a dozen under separate cover, in case you have any need for them. And in my letter of thanks to Tim Meigs I am sending him one to be filled out and returned, just so we'll have it in our files for the record. RW

Relet use my name Committee against Summit Ent. sorry for delay

Application For Membership

_____, 195

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
Belmont 78, Massachusetts

Gentlemen:

This is my application for membership in the _____ Chapter of THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, for one year from this date, and for automatic renewal each year thereafter, unless I resign in writing. I understand the dues schedule printed below, as applicable to myself.

If my application is accepted, I agree that my membership may be revoked at anytime, by a duly appointed officer of the Society, without the reason being stated, on refund of the *pro rata* part of my dues paid in advance.

Sincerely,

(Name) _____

(Address) _____

_____

Date _____

Dues Received _____

Application Approved

By _____

Title _____

(Applications for membership in local chapters should be approved by the Chapter Leader. Applications for membership in the Home Chapter will be approved by the home office.)

Dues Schedule

Life membership in the Home Chapter, (which automatically covers membership in any local chapter), for men or women $1,000.00
(This may be paid in two consecutive annual installments of $500.00 each.)

Membership in a local chapter, minimum per year:
For men $24.00
For women 12.00
(This may be paid as $2.00 per month for men, and $1.00 per month for women, to the local Chapter Leader.)

If any member wishes to pay larger dues, to support the Society's work (or to make contributions for that purpose), such dues or contributions may also be split into monthly installments if desired.